THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) The suggestion for modifying the timings of 4025/4026 Delhi-Azamgarh Kaifiat Express was received after the time table was finalised for publishing. Its rescheduling has been subsequently examined but not found feasible due to operational constraints. Its stoppage at Ayodhya has been provided with effect from 25.10.2003 but its stoppage at Barabanki and Akbarpur have not been found justified at present.

Irregularities and corruption in Northeast Frontier Railway

1399. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that serious irregularities and prevalence of rampant corruption in Northeast Frontier Railways has been brought to the notice of Government and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government and CVC have not taken any cognizance of the complaints in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the life of complainant is in danger from Railways authorities/contractors, etc. since he has disclosed irregularities/corruption; and

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to get the complaints investigated and to take steps to protect life of the complainant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. The irregularities pertain to execution of contract agreements in Eklakhi-Balurghat New Line Construction Project on Northeast Frontier Railway.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The complaint has been investigated by the Railway Vigilance as well as the Organisation of the Chief Technical Examiner, Central Vigilance Commission. The advice of the Central Vigilance Commission has been obtained and action is being taken in pursuance thereof. On the request of the complainant, security has been provided to him. He has also been transferred to North Western Railway on his own request.

Security to rail passengers

1400.SHRI DATTAMEGHE Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether maintenance of law and order and providing security to rail passengers and their belongings are the responsibility of State Governments, which they discharge through the Government Railway Police (GRP);

(b) whether Indian Railways bear 50 per cent of the expenditure incurred by each State on GRP;

(c) if so, the total amount the Railways owe to each State in this regard as on 31st March, 2005, with particular reference to Maharashtra; and

(d) by when, this amount is likely to be paid to the states concerned by the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. According to Entry No. 2 of the State List of the Constitution of India, 'Police' (including Railways and village Police), is a State subject. Prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains ae the statutory responsibility of the States. Therefore, providing security to rail passengers and their belongings is the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territories which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRP). They are supplemented by the Railway Protection Force (under Ministry of Railways) since 01.07.2004 following the amendments to Railway Protection Force Act, 1957.

(b) Yes, Sir.